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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/797,303	03/09/2004	Gary Weller	514362001410	4452
John S. Nagy (Fulwider, Patton, Lee & Utecht, LLP) Howard Hughes Center 6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor Los Angeles, CA 90045				
EXAMINER YABUT, DIANE D				
ART UNIT 3734				
PAPER NUMBER				
MAIL DATE 12/16/2008				
DELIVERY MODE PAPER				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/797,303

Applicant(s)

WELLER ET AL.

Examiner

DIANE YABUT

Art Unit

3734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 November 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 29-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 29-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/ISD)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 08/19/2008

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/05/2008 has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 08/19/2008 is acknowledged. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 29-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Deem** (U.S. Patent No. **6,558,400**) in view of **Adams et al.** (U.S. Pub. No. **2003/0132267**).

Claims 29-30: Deem discloses a stapling member **170** or **190** for stapling the fold of stomach tissue comprising a cartridge assembly having a longitudinal axis, the cartridge assembly having a first tissue acquisition member and a second tissue acquisition member separated by a removable septum **184** or **196**, each tissue acquisition member including a tissue receiving cavity sized to receive a fold of stomach tissue, the tissue receiving cavity being coupled to a vacuum port **174** or **193** (Figures 9A-11B, col. 10, lines 39-65, col. 11, line 3 to col. 12, line 33).

Deem discloses the claimed device except for the first tissue acquisition member being pivotable about the longitudinal axis in relation to a second tissue acquisition member.

Adams et al. disclose a stapler with a first **10** and second tissue acquisition **17**members **10**, wherein the first tissue acquisition member is pivotable about the longitudinal axis of the stapler in relation to a second tissue acquisition member (Figures 21-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide a pivotable first tissue acquisition member, as taught by Adams et al., to Deem in order to accommodate variably-sized tissue sections and since it was known in the art that pivotable tissue acquisition members facilitate grasping and apposition of tissue to ensure engagement of tissue.

Claims 31-32: Deem discloses an expandable element 52 being selected from the group consisting of a scope, a balloon, and a wire form, and the device being adapted for use with an endoscope (Figures 3A-3C and 17A, col. 8, lines 31-39, col. 15, lines 40-44).

Claims 33-34: Deem discloses the claimed device except for the septum being made of a bioabsorbable material selected from the group consisting of polylactic acid (PLA), poly(lactic-co-glycolic acid) (PLGA), and polyglycolic acid (PGA). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide a septum made of some bioabsorbable material since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 29-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DIANE YABUT whose telephone number is (571)272-6831. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9AM-4PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Todd Manahan can be reached on (571) 272-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Diane Yabut/
Examiner, Art Unit 3734

/Todd E Manahan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3731